
HOUSE BILL 1109

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Campbell, Seaquist, Moeller, Green, Hasegawa, Hunt, McCoy, Morrell, Kenney, Ormsby, Hurst, Wallace and McCune

Read first time 01/10/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting transfer students from military
2 families from the certificate of academic achievement requirement;
3 amending RCW 28A.655.061; adding a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW;
4 and creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students who have
7 been relocated across the country and perhaps across the world as a
8 result of their families' service in the military face academic
9 challenges with each relocation. Requiring students from military
10 families who transfer in high school to pass the Washington assessment
11 of student learning in order to receive a high school diploma poses an
12 unfair burden on these students and their families.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2006 c 115 s 4 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be
16 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities
17 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which
18 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature

1 pursuant to subsection (10) of this section, one or more objective
2 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of
3 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for
4 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
5 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
6 assessment of student learning for each content area.

7 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of
8 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the
9 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met
10 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.
11 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW
12 28A.155.045 and students satisfying the provisions of section 3 of this
13 act, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation from a
14 public high school but is not the only requirement for graduation.

15 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception
16 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045 and students
17 satisfying the provisions of section 3 of this act, a student who meets
18 the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics content
19 areas of the high school Washington assessment of student learning
20 shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a student does
21 not successfully meet the state standards in one or more content areas
22 required for the certificate of academic achievement, then the student
23 may retake the assessment in the content area up to four times at no
24 cost to the student. If the student successfully meets the state
25 standards on a retake of the assessment then the student shall earn a
26 certificate of academic achievement. Once objective alternative
27 assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection (10) of this section,
28 a student may use the objective alternative assessments to demonstrate
29 that the student successfully meets the state standards for that
30 content area if the student has retaken the Washington assessment of
31 student learning at least once. If the student successfully meets the
32 state standards on the objective alternative assessments then the
33 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement.

34 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must
35 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content
36 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington
37 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments
38 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

1 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of
2 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based
3 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private
4 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, ~~((or))~~ for students satisfying the
5 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, or for students satisfying the
6 provisions of section 3 of this act.

7 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each
8 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

9 (7) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to
10 students the following options:

11 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
12 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
13 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

14 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to
15 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the
16 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion
17 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of
18 public instruction and the state board for community and technical
19 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these
20 programs can be assessed.

21 (8) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high
22 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for
23 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the
24 superintendent of public instruction.

25 (9) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot
26 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the
27 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,
28 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be
29 available to each school district.

30 (10)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
31 shall develop options for implementing objective alternative
32 assessments, which may include an appeals process, for students to
33 demonstrate achievement of the state academic standards. The objective
34 alternative assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and
35 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington
36 assessment of student learning and be objective in its determination of
37 student achievement of the state standards. Before any objective
38 alternative assessments in addition to those authorized in RCW

1 28A.655.065 or (b) of this subsection are used by a student to
2 demonstrate that the student has met the state standards in a content
3 area required to obtain a certificate, the legislature shall formally
4 approve the use of any objective alternative assessments through the
5 omnibus appropriations act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

6 (b) A student's score on the mathematics portion of the preliminary
7 scholastic assessment test (PSAT), the scholastic assessment test
8 (SAT), or the American college test (ACT) may be used as an objective
9 alternative assessment under this section for demonstrating that a
10 student has met or exceeded the mathematics standards for the
11 certificate of academic achievement. The state board of education
12 shall identify the scores students must achieve on the mathematics
13 portion of the PSAT, SAT, or ACT to meet or exceed the state standard
14 for mathematics. The state board of education shall identify the first
15 scores by December 1, 2006, and thereafter may increase but not
16 decrease the scores required for students to meet or exceed the state
17 standard for mathematics.

18 (11) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate
19 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from
20 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the
21 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of
22 student learning for making individual student high school graduation
23 determinations.

24 (12) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as
25 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are
26 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare
27 plans for students as provided in this subsection (12).

28 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth
29 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content
30 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the
31 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,
32 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet
33 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. This
34 requirement shall be phased in as follows:

35 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade
36 students as described in this subsection (12)(a) shall have a plan.

37 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year

1 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection
2 (12)(a) shall have a plan.

3 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through
4 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington
5 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to
6 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student
7 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's
8 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

9 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
10 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
11 plan made as necessary.

12 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year
13 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or
14 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of
15 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

16 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this
17 subsection (12)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent
18 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of
19 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the
20 student's skills in any content area in which the student was
21 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their
22 student's skills.

23 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the
24 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the
25 plan made as necessary.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 Any student who transfers to a Washington state public school from
29 another state after the ninth grade as a result of the student's parent
30 or guardian receiving an active military duty assignment to Washington
31 state shall not be required to earn a certificate of academic
32 achievement as a requirement for high school graduation.

--- END ---